

Lightning Guidelines

Weather conditions need to be monitored closely in an approaching storm. As a general rule, if one can hear thunder or see lightning, all outdoor activities need to be moved indoors or cancelled.

Prevention and education are the keys to lightning safety. The athletic trainer, head coach and/or administrator using the following methods will monitor weather conditions.

- PERRY WEATHER, is a modern weather safety lightning alert system that will send out text messages and push notifications when lightning is approaching. It will send a caution text message when lightning is detected with 20 miles. When lightning is within 10 miles, Perry Weather will text message to stop events and seek shelter. Perry Weather is the official app used at Hardin and Farris complexes.
- WEATHERBUG via smartphones. This has a component called Spark which also tracks lightning based on the location of the user. Schools can use WEATHERBUG to track movement of approaching storms through its radar system.
- FLASH TO BANG method to monitor lightning for evacuation of the playing field for a safer environment when other indicators are not available. With the “Flash to bang” method the seconds are counted from the time a flash of lightning is seen until a clap of thunder is heard. When this number is 30 seconds or less, evacuation of the field should be under way. Lightning awareness should begin with the first flash of lightning seen or thunder clap heard.

Evacuation Procedures

The students should be evacuated to a safe shelter. Staying away from tall or individual trees, lone objects (light or flag poles), metal objects, and open fields. Examples of safe shelter are a bus, dressing room, or other building. A dug out or awning are not considered safe shelter. Administrators should evacuate spectators from the stadium.

Resume Practice and Competition

Once a game or practice has been suspended the storm should continue to be monitored. No contest or practice should be resumed until:

PERRY WEATHER - You may resume activities only after lightning has been indicated outside a 20-mile radius. Perry Weather will send text or push notification once lightning has moved outside the 20-mile range.

IF YOU REMAIN OUTDOORS AFTER THE WARNING IS ISSUED, YOU DO SO AT YOUR OWN RISK AND SUBJECT ALL STUDENTS IN YOUR CARE TO DANGER!!!

*Postpone or suspend activity if a thunderstorm appears imminent before or during an activity or contest (irrespective of whether lightning is seen or thunder is heard) until the hazard has passed. Signs of imminent thunderstorm activity are darkening clouds, high winds, and thunder or lightning activity.

